

WRITING AN OPINION COMPOSITION

DIFFERENT PARTS OF A COMPOSITION

1. Opening (1 paragraph)

- Presentation of the topic
- Ideas you are going to deal with

2. Body (2-3 paragraphs)

- Before writing the composition, write down all the ideas that come to your mind.
- Cross out any irrelevant idea. Keep to the point.
- Organize your ideas logically.
- Divide your ideas into paragraphs.
- You can start with a generalization and then get into details.
- Illustrate your ideas by giving examples.

2. Closing (1 paragraph)

It can be a summing up, a personal opinion on the matter, food for thought, a wish, etc.

A FEW POINTS TO KEEP IN MIND

- ✓ Use connectors to link your ideas logically and correctly (see list below).
- ✓ Use the appropriate style. Avoid contractions (don't / isn't / hasn't, etc.) in formal style.
- ✓ Use a varied vocabulary.
- ✓ Pay attention to the punctuation and to capital letters.
- ✓ Pay attention to the grammar (for example, check the verbs: singular and plural, 3rd person singular -s, count and non-count nouns etc.).
- ✓ Don't forget to skip a line between the different paragraphs.
- ✓ While writing a draft, underline words or expressions you are not sure about.
- ✓ Count the words to see that you have not written less than you have to. Don't write more than you have to.
- ✓ Write legibly.
- ✓ NEVER hand in work without re-reading it carefully TWICE!!!

MAIN CONNECTORS

RESULT – SUMMARY

So – Therefore, – as a result – thus – Consequently, – in this way – in short – in brief

CONCESSION

However, – Nevertheless, – despite – in spite of – yet – although – though – still

CONTRAST

Instead – in comparison – but – on the one hand – on the other hand – by contrast – whereas – otherwise

ADDITION

Also – and – Furthermore, – Moreover, – in addition to – besides – above all

REASON

Because – since – as – because of, due to – thanks to

EMPHASIS

As a matter of fact, – in particular – Of course, – In fact, – indeed – in any event

ILLUSTRATION

For instance – for example

REPETITION

Similarly – likewise – in the same way

SEQUENCE

First – next – then – finally – at last – eventually – in the end – In conclusion, – Firstly – Secondly – Thirdly

USEFUL PHRASES FOR OPINIONS

- Many people claim that...
- It is true that...
- This is not an exaggeration... even though...
- I tend to dis/agree with...
- In my view...
- As far as I am concerned,
- In conclusion,
- To conclude,
- I can understand..., However,...
- As we have seen / will see, there are (at least) two sides to this issue.
- I am convinced that we can deal with this situation / improve this situation / solve this problem...
- This is an issue that can be solved / must be faced...
- Another aspect of the issue is...
- In my opinion, the advantages of... far outweigh the disadvantages...
- We can argue that... but...
- Personally I am in favour of...